

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**GOVERNOR MAPP PROCLAIMS
SEPTEMBER 5 & 6, 2015
BACK TO SCHOOL DAYS OF PRAYER &
SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2015 DAY OF THE VI FATHERS MARCH**

(St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands, September 2, 2015) Governor Kenneth E. Mapp signed a proclamation today setting aside two days of the year on which Virgin Islanders are urged to pray for the safety and success of the parents, students, teachers, and administrators who are returning to campus for the new school year. “We want to make our schools safe and peaceful learning environments free from violence and conducive to learning. Therefore, the residents of the Virgin Islands call upon their clergy to lead the community in Back to School Days of Prayer on behalf of the parents, students, teachers, and administrators returning to school here in the Virgin Islands and abroad”, stated the Governor.

“We acknowledge that we need the prayer, and we ask for His blessings and protection of our children during the upcoming school year both on and off campus. The involvement of the church and community on the days of prayer is both necessary and appropriate. It is important that parents - and more particularly fathers - in the Virgin Islands accompany their children on the first day of school since there is no single factor that more ensures their success in school than the support of their parents”, the Governor continued.

All fathers of school age children in the Virgin Islands are encouraged to signal their personal commitment to quality education for their children by taking them to school on that first day and maintaining a presence and interest in their education thereafter.

Governor Mapp proclaimed Saturday, September 5, 2015, and Sunday, September 6, 2015 as *The Back to School Days of Prayer in the United States Virgin Islands* on behalf of parents, students, teachers, and administrators of the Virgin Islands school system. He also proclaimed Tuesday, September 8, 2015, the first day of the public school year in the Territory, as the *Day of the V.I. Fathers March*. Fathers, in particular, are urged to lead all parents on the march to school with their children on that date, and commit to being responsible and doing whatever is necessary for their children in their education and their lives during the 2015-2016 school year.

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